

United States Army Medical Department Center and School Biography

Joanne E. McGovern
Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Service Corps, United States Army
Chief, Homeland Security/CBRNE Branch
Leader Training Center
Academy of Health Science
ATTN: MCCS-HH
2250 Stanley Road
Ft Sam Houston, Texas 78234
Joanne.McGovern@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL
(210) 221-8213



Lieutenant Colonel McGovern enlisted in the United States Army as a private in 1975 and served as an electrical engineer and a combat medic. In 1979 she was accepted to the Military College of Vermont, Norwich University. She transferred from active duty to the Vermont National Guard and became one of the first military members to participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program. She entered Norwich University as a member of its Cadet Corps in the Fall of 1979.

Lieutenant Colonel McGovern received her commission as a Lieutenant in September 1981 and completed her Bachelor of Science (Earth Science) from Norwich University in December 1981. She returned to active service as a Medical Service Corps Officer in January 1982.

Her initial assignment was as a platoon leader in the Medical Company, 498th Support Battalion, 2nd Armored Division (FWD), Garlstedt, Germany. While serving in the Division she established the Family Health Clinic and served as its Executive Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel McGovern became Chief of Plans, Operations and Training for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Medical Activity Center (SHAPE MEDDAC). In 1986 she became the Commander of the Medical Company at SHAPE. She returned to the United States in 1987 to serve as the Senior Medical Advisor, Readiness Group, Ft Sill, Oklahoma.

Lieutenant Colonel McGovern returned to Europe in 1981 as was assigned as the S-3 to the 45th Field Hospital, Vicenza Italy. She deployed on several contingency and humanitarian missions to Southwest Asia, the Balkans and Africa while serving as the Executive Officer for the contingency hospital. In 1992 she established the Airborne Forward Surgical Team, the first in Europe and became the Deputy Surgeon, Southern European Task Force (SETAF). In that role she was instrumental in writing the initial Health Service Support Plans for operations in the Balkans to include Operation Able Sentry. As a result of this expertise she was assigned as the Chief, 1st Armored Division Medical Operations Center (DMOC), Bad Krueznach, Germany, in 1993.

As the DMOC for 1st Armored Division, Lieutenant Colonel McGovern played a pivotal role in preparing the Division to deploy to Bosnia. She spearheaded training initiatives to better prepare medical personnel for operations in a non-permissive environment and developed the Health Service Support Plan for the Division. In 1995 Lieutenant Colonel McGovern was transferred to Headquarters, V Corps, to develop the Health Service Support portion of the Campaign Plan for Operation Joint Endeavor, the United States forces entry and operations into Bosnia. Lieutenant Colonel McGovern deployed as a member of USAREUR (FWD) and served as the Chief of Medical Plans and Operations for one year. Upon her redeployment she was assigned as the Executive Officer, 212 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

She returned to the United States in 1998 to serve as the Chief of Plans and Current Operations, US Southern Command. She deployed several times to Central and South America in support of Humanitarian Assistance Operations and Disaster Relief as a result of Hurricane Mitch, the volcano eruptions in Ecuador, the Venezuelan floods and chemical disaster, the earthquakes in El Salvador and US actions in Colombia.

LTC McGovern is currently assigned to the United States Army Medical Department Center and School, FT Sam Houston, TX, where she has served as the Deputy Director for Healthcare Operations and is currently assigned as the Chief of the Homeland Security Branch and as an Adjunct Professor for the U.S. Army Baylor University Program in Healthcare Administration where she teaches courses in Readiness and Homeland Security.

Lieutenant Colonel McGovern's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service, Army Meritorious Service (4 OCL), Army Commendation (4 OCL), Joint Achievement, Army Achievement (4 OCL), Expeditionary, and Humanitarian Service (1 OCL) medals. She holds the Expert Field Medical and Army Parachute Badges. Other Awards include the Venezuelan Honor Medal 1st Class and the U.S. Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award.

LTC Joanne E. McGovern

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT

Chief, Homeland Security Branch, Leader Training Center, US Army Academy of Health Science

CIVILIAN EDUCATION

Norwich University

BS, Earth Science

1982

MILITARY EDUCATION

Faculty Development Course

Biological and Chemical Terrorism Course

Integrated Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Natural Disasters Training Program

Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training

Command and General Staff College

Combined Arms Service Staff School

AMEDD Officer Advance Course

NATO NBC School

Officer/NCO NBC Defense Course

Airborne School

AMEDD Office Basic Course

ASSIGNMENTS

- Chief, Homeland Security Branch, Leader Training Center, US Army Academy of Health Science
- Deputy Director, Healthcare Operations, US Army Academy of Health Science, San Antonio, Texas
- Chief, Medical Plans and Operations, US Southern Command, Miami, Florida
- Chief, Medical Plans, 5th Corps, Heidelberg, Germany
- Chief, Medical Plans and Operations, US Army Europe (FWD), Tazar, Hungary
- Chief, Medical Operations, 5th Corps, Heidelberg, Germany
- Chief, Division Medical Operations Center, 1st Armored Division, Bad Krueznach, Germany
- Deputy Surgeon, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy
- Chief, Security, Plans, Operations, and Training, 45th Field Hospital, Vicenza, Italy
- Senior Readiness Advisor, 5th Army, Ft Sill, Oklahoma
- Company Commander, 196 Field Hospital, SHAPE, Belgium
- Chief, Security, Plans, Operations, and Training, SHAPE, Belgium
- Executive Officer, Medical Company, 498th Support BN, 2nd AD (FWD) Garlstadt, Germany
- Treatment Platoon Leader, Medical Company, 498th Support BN, 2nd AD (FWD) Garlstadt, Germany
- Ambulance Platoon Leader, Medical Company, 498th Support BN, 2nd AD (FWD) Garlstadt, Germany

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Defense Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal, 5 Awards

Army Commendation Medal, 5 Awards

Joint Achievement Medal

Army Achievement Medal, 5 Awards

Humanitarian Service Medal, 2 Awards

Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 2 Awards

Army Meritorious Unit Award

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

National Defense Service Medal, 2 Awards

NATO Medal, NATO SVC Former Yugoslavia

OTHER AWARDS

Department Of State Meritorious Honor Award

Venezuela Honor Medal 1st Class

BADGES

Parachutists Badge

Expert Field Medical Badge